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Retiring Dulles Gets Unheralded Send-Off

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President Kennedy flew by helicopter from the White House grounds to Langley, Va., yesterday for an unheralded ceremony to honor a retiring public servant—Allen

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W. Dulles, who today leaves his post as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Chief Executive awarded Dulles the National Security Medal for distinguished service in the field of intelligence. He also praised him as "an almost unique figure in our country," a man who has served the United States un-

der seven Presidents as a diplomat, wartime chief of undercover operations and head of the CIA.

"I know of no man who brings a greater sense of personal commitment to his work," Mr. Kennedy said of Dulles, "who has less pride in office than he has."

The President also had words of praise for the rank and file of CIA, saying:

"Your successes are unheralded—your failures trumpetted. I sometimes have that feeling myself. But I am sure you realize how important your work is, how essential it is—

and how in the long sweep of history how significant your efforts will be judged."

John A. McCone of California, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, will be sworn in at the White House today as the new \$21,000-a-year director of the CIA.

No advance public announcement was made of President Kennedy's intention to give Dulles a send-off at the new CIA headquarters in Langley. Four White House reporters, chosen on short notice to serve under a pool arrangement, were flown to Langley just ahead of the President, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, and Gen. Maxwell Taylor.

The farewell ceremony took place in the lobby of the main CIA building, with some 700 officials and employees looking on. In the gathering too were Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and his wife, Ethel.

The President, in awarding Dulles the National Security Medal, noted that Dulles had won many other honors. These include the Medal for Merit and Presidential Citation, the Medal of Freedom, Italy's Order of Maurizio E. Lazzaro, France's Legion of Honor and

Belgium's Cross of the Order of Leopold.

Dulles thanked the President for his constant support of the CIA and for his understanding of the agency's problems and possibilities. He said the agency would be in good hands under "my old friend" McCone. Then he thanked the CIA employees for the help they had given him through "good times and bad."

This last could have been an allusion to the Cuban invasion that went wrong, a misadventure for which the President took full blame.

Dulles, who is 68, issued a formal statement announcing that he would return to the practice of law, serving as counsel to the firm of Sullivan and Cromwell of New York City. Like his brother, the late John Foster Dulles, he had been with this firm for many years.

Dulles has had an extraordinary and adventurous life. After being graduated from Princeton in 1914, he taught English in Allahabad, India. He returned to Princeton to study for a master's degree, which he received in 1916. That same year he joined the United States Diplomatic Corps and subsequently served in Vienna, Bern, Berlin, Constantinople and Washington. He was a member of the American Commission at the Paris Peace Conference in 1918-19, and later was assigned to international conferences in the Coolidge and Hoover Administrations.

In World War II, Dulles had a key job in the Office of Strategic Services. He was chief of OSS in Switzerland and was given much of the credit for the surrender of German troops in northern Italy in 1945. He had hundreds of spies working under him all over

President Kennedy pins a National Security Medal on retiring Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen Dulles at CIA headquarters. The President made a surprise helicopter trip to Langley for the presentation.